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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Censorship Conditions

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) - - - -
25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR. 3 MAY 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. "As for the magazines you sent, I am very sorry, but as it looks I shall never get them. I learned just a few days ago from a man who works with the customs that they do not pass any printed matter and they keep it 'to study the conditions' in the countries from which the magazines come. I have this [sic] for a very mean and stupid way to keep from the people all the information about other countries. He said they take such magazines where could be seen the prices. So I think that you are right when you stop sending me the magazines. It is a pity for I did not see any US magazine since 1948.
2. "I think I quite understand you as far as your comment on my optimism or pessimism is concerned, but, I am afraid, you do not understand me. I met a lot of people both from the UK and the US who could not understand many things that were going on here, but that all comes from the way of living and education of the people. You see, it is hard to be full of optimism, to have ambitions and what else, when you do not know what will be with you today. I remember many Americans in the last war did not believe there could be concentration camps and that such things that were going on in them could be possible, but when they came to Dachau and other camps they saw they were mistaken, and what they saw then was only a part of the things that happened before they came. If I could tell you all I know you would understand me better then.
3. "We had Xmas without snow, there was not even frost, only dust in the streets. But after New Year then came both snow and very hard frosts. We still have hard frosts of about 20 degrees (Celsius) below zero [redacted]. It is bad, for the water pipes in our house cracked, then we are running short of coal, too, and to add to it there was an epidemic of flu. Both my wife and Helen were down with it.
4. "The stamps are a problem here. I send a lot of stamps to many people all over the world, but then it came. I send about 50 mint stamps to my friend in India, but after a short time I got a letter from the Central Custom office in Prague telling me it was for the last time I was exporting stamps without permission and if it is repeated they will prosecute me. Then there was quite a short note about the high [sic] of the files. They have returned both my letter and the stamps, they only kept the envelopes. So I gave up sending stamps. The fine runs up to five thousand Czech crowns and that means the income of a teacher of five months."

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